

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /075 W  
-----013030 141430Z /50

O O 141408Z APR 78 ZFF 4  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7688  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06918

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, MILI, BQG  
SUBJECT: PROTEST TO SOVIETS OVER DESTRUCTION OF  
POLITICAL POSTERS

REFS: (A) STATE 93331  
(B) USBER 808  
(C) BONN 6223  
(D) USBER 832  
(E) BONN 6365

SUMMARY. THE BRITISH HAVE PROPOSED THAT, FOR  
TACTICAL REASONS, THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT REPLY TO THE  
SOVIET REQUEST TO REMOVE THE KBW POSTERS IN WEST BERLIN  
AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE PROTEST DESTRUCTION OF SUCH  
POSTERS BY A SOVIET FLAG PATROL. IF, HOWEVER, THE  
SOVIETS THEMSELVES RAISE THE ISSUE OF THE CONTENT OF  
THE POSTERS, OR REPEAT THE SOVIET REQUEST, THE UK  
VIEW IS THAT THE REPLY SUGGESTED BY THE US SHOULD BE  
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MADE. THE BONN GROUP SUPPORTED THIS RECOMMENDATION.  
ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARAGRAPH 8. END SUMMARY

1. THE UK REP (EYERS) REPORTED AT THE BONN GROUP MEETING  
THIS MORNING THAT, AFTER CONSULTING THE FCO (HE HAS NOT  
ASKED FOR FORMAL INSTRUCTIONS), THE BRITISH HAVE DIFFI-  
CULTIES WITH THE US PROPOSAL (REF A, PARA 3) TO REPLY

TO THE SOVIET REQUEST BY TRENDELEV (REF B) FOR THE REMOVAL OF KBW POLITICAL POSTERS AT THE SAME TIME THE PROTEST IS MADE ABOUT THE BEHAVIOR OF THE SOVIET FLAG TOUR IN DESTROYING POLITICAL POSTERS IN THE AMERICAN SECTOR. HE SAID THAT THE ALLIED PROTEST IS CLEAR AND SELF-CONTAINED AND WOULD TEND TO PUT THE SOVIETS ON THE DEFENSIVE. IF THE ALLIES, ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE, TOLD THE SOVIETS THAT THE POSTERS DID NOT GO BEYOND THE LIMITS OF WHAT IS POLITICALLY PERMISSIBLE, THE SOVIETS MIGHT USE THIS SEPARATE ISSUE AS A WAY TO DEFLECT THE EXCHANGE FROM THE UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR OF THEIR OWN FLAG TOUR TO A DISCUSSION OF WHAT IS POLITICALLY PERMISSIBLE.

2. EYERS SAID THE POINT IS A MATTER OF TACTICS. IF THE SOVIETS THEMSELVES RAISE THE SUBJECT OF THE CONTENT OF THE POSTERS OR REPEAT THE REQUEST, THEN THE ALLIES CLEARLY HAD TO REPLY. IN THAT CASE, THE LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY THE US (ALSO REF A, PARA 3) WAS THE PROPER REPLY.

3. THE FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) SAID HE FAVORED THE UK APPROACH. HE DID NOT WANT THE SOVIETS TO BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO JUSTIFY THEIR BEHAVIOR BY ARGUING ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE POSTERS.

4. THE FRENCH REP (RICHARD) ALSO AGREED WITH THE UK  
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PROPOSAL. HE SAID HE WOULD GIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE FRENCH MISSION IN BERLIN IF THE DEPARTMENT APPROVED THE RECOMMENDATION.

5. ALL REPS AGREED WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTION THAT THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF THE TEXT ("WE REGARD THIS AS A SERIOUS INCIDENT") SHOULD BE DELETED (REF A, PARA 2).

6. COMMENT: WE AGREE WITH THE LOGIC OF THE BRITISH SUGGESTION AND RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED REPLY IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF REF A BE USED ONLY IF THE SOVIETS RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE POLITICAL CONTENT OF THE POSTERS OR ASK ABOUT A REPLY TO TRENDELEV'S REQUEST. IN ANY EVENT, IT SEEMS VERY LIKELY THAT THE SOVIETS THEMSELVES WILL DO SO IN RESPONSE TO THE ALLIED PROTEST, GIVING US THE CHANCE TO MAKE THE POINTS SUGGESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

7. FOR CONVENIENCE, THE TEXT OF THE AGREED ALLIED PROTEST NOW READS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /075 W  
-----013057 141430Z /50

O O 141408Z APR 78 ZFF 4  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7689  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06918

ON APRIL 5 A SOVIET FLAG PATROL REMOVED ONE POLITICAL  
POSTER AND DAMAGED ANOTHER ON THE CORNER OF POTSDAMER  
AND BUELOWSTRASSE IN THE AMERICAN SECTOR. I HAVE BEEN  
INSTRUCTED BY THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES TO PROTEST ABOUT  
THE CONDUCT OF THE SOVIET SOLDIERS IN THIS MATTER. THIS  
ACT, WHICH WAS A BREACH OF PUBLIC ORDER, CONSTITUTES AN  
ATTEMPT TO INFRINGE ON THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
OF THE COMPETENT ALLIED AUTHORITIES.

THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE REQUESTED TO  
INVESTIGATE THIS MATTER AND TO TAKE THE NECESSARY  
MEASURES TO DISCIPLINE THE SOLDIERS CONCERNED AS WELL  
AS TO ENSURE THAT SOVIET FLAG TOURS CONDUCT THEMSELVES  
PROPERLY IN THE FUTURE.

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8. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT APPROVE THE  
USE OF THE REPLY IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF REF A ONLY IF THE  
SOVIETS RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE CONTENT OF THE POSTERS  
OR ASK ABOUT A REPLY TO THE SOVIET REQUEST.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, COMMUNISM  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Page Count:** 4  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 93331, 78 USBERLIN 808, 78 BONN 6223, 78 USBERLIN 832, 78 BONN 6365  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROTEST TO SOVIETS OVER DESTRUCTION OF POLITICAL POSTERS  
**TAGS:** PGOV, MILI, BQG  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014